

# WASTEWATER in Our WATERSHEDS

Virtually every home, business and farm generates wastewater. The ways in which we handle and dispose of that wastewater have a profound effect on the water we drink, our health and the health of the environment - especially our waterways.

Over 70% of Suffolk County buildings use individual, onsite systems. Single onsite systems and clustered, community systems are considered "decentralized" wastewater treatment, in contrast to central sewers. Excess nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphates) as well as pollutants from onsite systems can contaminate the groundwater (aquifer), degrading drinking water quality and ultimately sensitive marine environments. As a result, toxic algal blooms impact shellfish, fish, marine habitats, and even human health. There are a number of approaches to manage and reduce the negative impact of wastewater.

PECONIC GREEN GROWTH, a not-for-profit organization located in Riverhead, has been studying decentralized wastewater on the East End. To read their latest report, click here: [Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Plan for the LI Sound Watershed on the North Fork](#)

PECONIC GREEN GROWTH is now focusing efforts on the Peconic Estuary. In addition to a report, three locations will be selected for an initial engineering report on systems and costs for decentralized clustered systems. (Designs are by Natural Systems Utilities, Inc.)

A survey is being conducted to gather information about current handling of wastewater and to assess public reaction to various alternative approaches. We will use this data to help determine next steps, with the goal of better protecting the aquifers, creeks, bays and Long Island Sound. We ask that you PLEASE PARTICPATE in taking this survey: [Peconic Green Growth Wastewater Questionnaire](#)

For further information, visit [www.peconicgreengrowth.org](http://www.peconicgreengrowth.org) or contact:

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